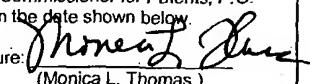


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER 147062694US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: July 17, 2003

Signature:   
(Monica L. Thomas)

Docket No.: HO-P02125US1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Marc Long, et al.

Application No.: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: BONE GRAFT SUBSTITUTES

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-57. (Cancelled).

58. (New) A three-dimensional intricately shaped bone graft substitute made by the method comprising the step of dry powder compacting a bone material.
59. (New) The bone graft substitute of claim 58, wherein said bone material is an allograft material, a ceramic material, a polymer or combinations thereof.
60. (New) The bone graft substitute of claim 58, wherein said material further comprises a processing aid composition.